(a) whether Government has received a proposal from abroad for setting up of an international university in the country;

(b) whether Government is considering any proposal, *suo moto*, to establish a foreign university in the country, to supplement and upgrade arrangements and standards respectively for university education; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, a South Asian University is being set up for member countries of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), with campuses in all SAARC members countries.

Higher education to SC and ST women

1433.SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated and executed for imparting higher education to SC and ST women; and

(b) the number of SC and ST women benefited from those schemes and how many of them have become self-reliant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) All schemes of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for imparting quality higher education aim at enhancing access of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs) including women belonging to these sections of the population. According to UGC's 11 Plan Report, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of SC women is 3.16% and ST women is 5.57%.

Literacy in States and UTs

1434.SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present percentage of literacy in different States and Union Territories of the country;

(b) the number of students between 6 to 14 years at present, who do not attend schools;

(c) the status of drop-outs in different States and Union Territories; and

(d) the plan of Government to bring drop-outs to zero-point, and the achievement made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The literacy data in the country is collected through decennial census operation conducted by Registrar General of India. A Statement indicating State-wise literacy rate as per the last census held in 2001 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) As per State Reports furnished as of March 2008, 45 lakh children in the 6 - 14 age group are estimated to be out of school.

(c) A Statement indicating State-wise dropout rates of students, as per Selected Educational Statistics 2005-06 is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) A multi prolonged approach has been adopted under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing dropout rates. This includes strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training and academic support to teachers. In addition, interventions under SSA aim at building community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provision to promote education of girls, as well as children with special needs. The Mid-day Meal Programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

Statement-I

State-wise literacy rate as per Census 2001

Sl.No.	State / UT	Literacy rate (%) as per Census 2001
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	60.47
2	Arunachal Pradesh	54.34
3	Assam	63.25
4	Bihar	47.00
5	Chhattisgarh	64.66
6	Goa	82.01
7	Gujarat	69.14
8	Haryana	67.91
9	Himachal Pradesh	76.48
10	Jammu and Kashmir	55.52
11	Jharkhand	53.56
12	Karnataka	66.64
13	Kerala	90.86
14	Madhya Pradesh	63.74
15	Maharashtra	76.88
16	Manipur	70.53
17	Meghalaya	62.56
18	Mizoram	88.80
19	Nagaland	66.59

1	2	3
20	Orissa	63.08
21	Punjab	69.65
22	Rajasthan	60.41
23	Sikkim	68.81
24	Tamil Nadu	73.45
25	Tripura	73.19
26	Uttarakhand	71.62
27	Uttar Pradesh	56.27
28	West Bengal	68.64
29	Andaman & Nicobar	81.30
30	Chandigarh	81.94
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	57.63
32	Daman & Diu	78.18
33	Delhi	81.67
34	Lakshadweep	86.66
35	Pondicherry	81.24
	India	64.84

Statement-II

Dropout rates of students

Sl. No.	State / UT	Dropout rates of students		
		Classes I-V	Classes I- VIII	Classes I-X
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	24.75	59.07	63.67
2	Arunachal Pradesh	38.02	54.11	70.25
3	Assam	47.78	73.48	76.66
4	Bihar	46.55	73.37	83.07
5	Chhattisgarh*	35.18	-	-
6	Goa	0.37	4.95	42.84
7	Gujarat	31.58	46.41	60.27
8	Haryana	5.40	10.63	42.37
9	Himachal Pradesh	10.69	10.82	0.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	11.58	38.14	63.88

1	2	3	4	5
11	Jharkhand*	50.18	-	-
12	Karnataka	15.50	44.83	60.86
13	Kerala	0.00	0.00	4.98
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.29	42.32	65.01
15	Maharashtra	5.14	23.50	51.36
16	Manipur	31.06	35.97	41.91
17	Meghalaya	42.38	64.02	78.09
18	Mizoram	31.58	64.86	73.73
19	Nagaland	38.43	38.10	65.51
20	Orissa	41.20	62.63	65.03
21	Punjab	23.66	32.98	46.02
22	Rajasthan	52.84	59.47	75.73
23	Sikkim	17.84	63.17	82.63
24	Tamil Nadu	0.00	22.11	42.45
25	Tripura	28.76	55.88	74.89
26	Uttarakhand*	27.42	-	-
27	Uttar Pradesh	9.76	41.25	43.02
28	West Bengal	38.67	62.45	75.12
29	Andaman & Nicobar	11.54	12.44	33.24
30	Chandigarh	0.00	40.79	17.09
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	24.44	40.24	59.39
32	Daman & Diu	2.56	7.34	34.87
33	Delhi	5.10	16.34	46.26
34	Lakshadweep	10.08	7.57	21.17
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	13.69
	India	25.67	48.80	61.62

*Dropout rates are shown combined with the respective parent State.

Note: Zero indicates that there is no dropout.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Meghalaya

1435.SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: